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EAF:JMS

10/018659
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SAH
3A
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Christer ÅSLUND

Examiner: Jenkins
~~Unassigned~~

Serial No.: 10/018659

Group Art Unit: 1742
~~Unassigned~~

Filed: ~~Herewith~~ 12-21-01

For: A METHOD FOR SINTERING A CARBON STEEL PART USING A
HYDROCOLLOID BINDER AS CARBON SOURCE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,
please make the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 3-6 as follows:

3 (Amended). A method according to claim 1, characterised in
that the agglomerated powder in addition comprises fine-grained
graphite powder.

4 (Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterised in
that the heating at 450-650°C takes place under a protective
atmosphere to prevent oxidation.

5 (Amended). A method according to claim 1, characterised
in that the heating at 450-650°C takes place under an atmosphere
which allows part of the carbon to be removed.